¶ A true report of the late horrible murther committed by VVilliam Sherwood, Priſoner in the Queenes Benche, for the profeſſion of Popery, the 18. of *Iune*. 1581.

Am the more loath at this time, to laie open vnto the view of the whole worlde, that late foule murder committed by Sherwood, becauſe I would not ſpeake much of them which be gonne, & be thought to bite them by the back which are dead, and ſo be like vnto thoſe Papiſts which beeing hotte in cruelty, did not onely curſe the dead continually, but did take vp and burne the bones of diuers good men into aſhes, to ſignifie vnto the worlde, that no drinke could cole their thirſt, but blood, no Sacrifice could content thē, but the warme hart blood of Martyrs, & the death of the Saints of God. But my intent is this, for as much as their ſcabbes now breake out, and that their cruelty ſeeketh no corners, but ſetteth it ſelfe vpon a Stage to be beheld of all men, to giue all good Chriſtians warning,

that as they shall heare of their naughtinesse, and lie it so, they will learne to spew them out of their stomackes for ever. It was wont to be sayd often, and to be true: Envie braggeth, but draweth no blood. But now it may be as truelie sayd: the mallice of a Papiste, it braggeth lyttle, but it is hardlie satisfied, but with abundance of much blood.

Their desired time of revenge is not past, and their mallice hath not yet vomitted his gall. We may see this, that because opportunitie offereth not it selfe, to let them delight their eies with beholding our channelles, running and reking, with the warme blood of Protestauntes: rather then they will want this delight, they will washe their handes in the blood of their owne brethren, in their owne chambers. This is the portion of their cuppe, which if they might, we should be made to drinke to the dregges.

These are the Boares which destroy the Vineyard, who because they are not baighted with Dogs, and their eares torne off, they will play lyke madde Dogges themselves, byting all that come in their way.

They

They stirre vp in their Ballades which they scatter, diuerse discontentments, as Iacke of Straw did in the like. They call them selues [illegible] subiectes, at the sute of our gracious Soueraigne; but their long eares bewraie their conditions. Their throates are open Sepulchres, they flatter with their tongues: and so is it their kinde, for it is as naturall for a Dogge to barke, as to waggle his taile: If the common wealth be not purged of this infection, the plagne will be so great, that vppon euerie good Protestauntes behalfe, Lord haue mercie vpon vs, may for this be written.

But I will briefly deliuer out this fearfull Tragedy, in the which I will set out nothing that is false, nor willinglie keepe any thing backe that is true. In the Queenes Bench, there were two detained for Poperie: The one called Richard Hobson, borne in the Ile of Wight, of good Parentage, young in yeres (but as tyme offereth) many young & greene heades, are seasoned Papists. The other named William Sherwood, a Gentleman, borne to some Landes, in Yorkshyre, at Walkington, by Byuerley; a man condempned in a Premunerie, for extolling the Supremacie:

a derider of Gods Ministers, a disturber of Preachers, a contemner of the seruice confirmed by her Maiestie, calling it diuelish: one well liked of many Papistes, but best liked of himselfe, because he was so disobedient, they accounted him stoute: because he prated much, they accounted him learned: but because he hath shamed them much, they would now accoumpt him madde. It fortuned before the death of Hobson, about fiue weekes, that Sherwood for want of paiment was remoued from his lodging, well chaseled, to the common Gaile, whose misery being pitied by this young man, was also releeued by his meanes, (as at sundrie other times he was). The quarrell as I am credibly enformed was this: Hobson gaue his word for the money that Sherwood owed: a freend of Sherwoods shortly after, had sent fiue pounds for the paiment of his charges, which Hobson receiuing, disbursed it for himselfe, and within few daies after, satisfied the residue, because this money was not paide to Sherwood first: at Dinner time with open words he protested, that he could not abide Hobson. This young man moued him oftentimes earnestly to be reconciled, shewing his greefe vnto him, in that he

take offence at him, but nothing might moue his minde that thirsted, or staye his hands that itched to commit murther. It is a speeche commonly vsed, that loue waxeth and waneth oftentimes with the Moone, but it may be as commonly seene, that the hatred of a Papist neuer waxeth and waneth, but still waxeth, still increaseth: he that hath beene planted in Poperie, his Grapes are Grapes of Gall: his clusters are alwayes bitter. If the Pope hath once giuen them a soppe, they are lightly neuer sober after: if he haue once powred his licker into them, their Vessels can hardely be made cleane. But to be briefe, the day drew on, which was the 28. of Iune, about 8. of the clock in the morning, at which time he had determined to murder his fellow Papist, and that the matter might more easy be brought to passe, he caused the night before the Keeper to remoue all Hobsons weapons, so that the next morning, as Hobson was comming downe thorough Sherwoods Chamber, from his prayers, Sherwood shutting his Chamber dore, assayled him with a knife, and a stoole frelled, astonishing him, afterwardes gaue him a large wound, keeping him downe and struggling till he died to death. Hobson often

crying, helpe Father Throckmorton, he killeth me with his knife: maister Throckmorton and others hearing this noyse, came vpon Sherwood, and by force broke vp his doores, found the young man all to be bowsed in his own blood, and gasping for breath: who after a fewe faint words, yelded his soule into the handes of God. Sherwood perceyued a great many busie about Hobson, began to practise to escape, but by heede taking of one Maister Smithes man, he was brought to the Marshalles handes, and embrued in his fellowes blood: who being examined, he denied the manifest murder, which by witnesse was proued, and he being brought to the slaine bodie, the blood which was settled, issued out a freshe. Thus he slewe this young man, in deede and cause, miserably in forme & fashion, cruelly and beastly.

Let vs aduisedly now weigh and consider, what manner of Moloc this is, that cutteth so sharpe: If they be thus vnable to maister their passions, and thus like bloodsuckers, do open them against their owne fellowe prisoners, what shall we looke for at their handes. *Quibus sepibus tam immanes bestias continebimus*: What hedges can be made strong enough, to keepe in these beastes. Tullie, wry-

ting

ting against Anchorite. Phillip. 7. saith thus: *Qui familiarem interficit, quid hic occasione data facturus inimicos? Et qui illud animi causa, quid is bono pretio causa quid facturus putetis?* He that will kyll his familiar freende, what will he doo, if occasion be offered, to his enemies? and he that will doo this of stomack, what will he offer to doo for spoyle?

Surely, so they will doo as they have done: they will devour the poore Protestauntes, as Beastes eate grasse, keeping them under: we shall (if time serued) not onely be choked with the smoake of Poperie, but we shall be burnt up with the fire.

Their impatibilmentes, have so enriched them: that they abound in all manner of wealth; especiallie, no men better furnished for warre, for rebellion, then they. In this great tyme of mercie, they doo nothing but gather heapes of stones to throwe at vs.

They are making of the halters, to hang vs: they are whetting of their knives, to cutte our throates. These tye Dogges, when they shall be let lose, they will byte vs, nay, they will bayte vs to death.

ge is time to cut of the Hydra his heads, and to strangle him within his Caue, for howsoeuer it commeth to passe they lift vp their heads on highe, Papistry began to wax dead and to be colde in ỹ mouth: it beginneth now to wax warme againe and to neese, we poore Protestants are afraide, but that God & our gracious Prince is with vs and hath broke still the arme of ỹ wicked; our harts would melt like wax in the middest of our bowels: the Lord hath deliuered her Maiestie, bethat is from thé, as a Doe is from the hand of the Hunter, and as a Birde from the hand of the Fowler, and God graunt they be neuer taken for good subiects, till they become subiects to God and his Gospell. This subiection of theirs and false Protestation of faith to her Maiestie is a false colour, we cannot haue an other hope be merueilously blinded if we perceaue it not, God remoue such stumbling stones from so good a Prince. It is pitty that these Blacke Rauens should go for Birds with the rest: I hope God will so bleese vs, especially all Magistrates, that they will looke to it at the last that they shall not be in accompte with them as to be the finger next the Thombe.

But now to returne to his ende, Qua-

lis

lis Vita, finis ita, as he liued so he dyed.

Beeing araigned at Croydon, he continued still obstinately denying the fact, hoping for some healpe by pardon, but a iust iudge preuented an vngratious hope.

The 12. of Iuly he was retourned home manacled with an other, who was condemned for a rape: his behauiour the night before he suffered, was according to his accustomed vsage, resolute in opinion, though false and dissolute in behauiour, driuing of his Christian brethren that exhorted him, with dry scoffes, and no maruell, for scoffing mocking and moweing, licking of Chalices and all manner of toying, is the life of their religion.

The nert day was the 13. of Iuly, the appointed time, for the execution: In the morning certaine deuout Christians had accesse vnto him, whom at the first entrance he cut of, or hearing a small time, despised. The time of the execution drue nighe, which was performed, ouer against the Queenes Benche, where the murder was committed, by the vnder Shrieke of Surrie, and the Baily of Southwarke, from the white Lion, to the place where he should suffer, after many

vaine

Diuine woords of concealed repyne had by the way, he was caused to clime the Ladder, on which being placed, he entered this kinde of discourse.

I beseeche all Romish Catholicks to helpe me in this my extremitie, with their vertuous and godly prayers, for other which are of a contrary profession, as I abhorre their religion, so I will none of theyr prayers. But if there shalbe here present any one of the true Catholick Romish faithe: I beseech them of theyr prayers in my behalfe.

The people hearing these his obstinate speeches, with sundry exclamations, cryed out, hang him, hang him, there be none heere of his profession.

Neuertheless hee continued his wicked speeches, proclayming the Pope of Rome the supreme head of the Universall Church, Christes Vicar here vpon earth. Yet notwithstanding, though by evident reasons he was confuted, yet the God of this world had so blinded him, that no reason could preuaile with him.

And farther, whereas the Preacher perswaded him to lay his hope on Christe whole

mercy

mercy was infinite, he vehemently cryed out, away with the Woolfe, he peruerteth the truthe, and troubleth me, away with the Woolfe.

Beeing farther inquired of the murther, he perfifted in his vniuft denyall, laying contrary to all euidence and probability, the death of the young man Hobſon to his owne charge.

When no hope of confeſſion or recantation was to be conceiued, the Shrieke cauſed him to be remoued higher, to the ende that execution might be perfourmed, wiſhing him by earneſt and deuoute prayers, to call for mercy and repentaunce, to craue grace.

But he by theſe tokens perceiuing death at hand, contrarie to a meeke Lambe, as he termed him ſelfe, fled downe the Ladder to flye from the Butcher, thereby ſhewing the vnſtablenelle of his faythe, ſo that the hangman was enforced to vndo the Halter which he had faſtened to the Gibbet, and to put it about his neck belowe, and ſo by little and little to wynd him vp.

Where

where resting, after many perswasions by the Shriefe and the Preacher, and no profit in the middest of his Lattine Pater noster, was turned off to the mercy of God.

I am perswaded if all the rest were thus handled, no one faithfull subiect should draw lesse breath, and then I am sure (thorough Gods great goodnes) the happy peace of this land should be made perfit, you see how boldly he imbraced forraine iurisdiction, all they which be Papists, hartely do the like, I pray God that if they be not haltered, yet that they may be bridled with shorter Raines, that they be not so headstrong, as this man was.

If a Shéepewerier be well cougeled at the first, he forsaketh his trade: so if Papistes were thoroughly dealt withall, they would forget to make the Pope supreame head of the Church of England.

I beseeche those that be in authoritie to looke to it, and thus committing the poore (yet quiet) estate of the Church of Englande, to the olde and wonted care of our gratious Prince, and the rest that beare any office, I end. not willing to spend many woords vpon so vile and carrenly a generation, but as *Peter*, Act. 2. exhorted his scholliers

in

of a horrible murther:
in many wordes, saying, Saue your selues from this froward generation, so I with few words, exhort all estates to loke to themselues, and to take heede of this viperous and pestilent generation from auncient crusty, of the which the Lord deliuer this whole lande of Englande bothe now and for euer. Amen.

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